

(DECEMBER 20, 1960 - DECEMBER 20, 1970)

A BALANCE-SHEET OF VICTORY

DECEMBER 1960. In face of the extermination policy pursued by the Americans and the Saigon authorities, South Viet Nam's various social segments came together in the National Front for Liberation to resist. In Washington, the US ruling circles, reviewing their global strategy, elected John Kennedy as president. The conquest of the Third World and the checking of the national liberation movement were to be the great concern of the US; the Kennedy-Taylor-Mac Namara team were going to lick into shape soon the war machine which would enable Washington to attain its strategic ambitions, a machine up to the capacity of the US industrial and financial might.

In the minds of the men in Washington, Viet Nam was to serve as testing ground for all political, economic, and military arms; all the tactics elaborately devised by the specialized departments of the Pentagon. Everything from the powerful US arsenal has been experimented in Viet Nam, short of the atomic weapon which cannot be used on such theatre of operations.

For a decade now, the South Vietnamese people, led by the NFL, have successfully stood up to this colossal war machine. As early as December 1962, Kennedy had to witness the bankruptcy of his schemes; and late in 1964, Newsweek wrote that the Viet Nam war looked no more like a game between a cat and a mouse, but rather a confrontation between a lion and a tiger. Then Washington committed in vain its crack units, a big part of its land, air and naval forces and resorted to the most objectionable means.

However, neither the South Viet Nam NFL and people on the whole, who had to experience the most excruciating, arduous, nor the DRVN which began only to embark on the socialist path, were shaken. It was the US war machine, and consequently all Washington's global strategy, which was thrown out of gear. The Tet 1968 general offensive and uprisings compelled the US command to give up once for all its offensive plans, and fall back on a purely defensive strategy. What was considered at the start to be a simple colonial expedition soon exerted a far-reaching influence on all facets of the American society, and touched off a crisis unprecedented in the history of the US.

Johnson was forced to and unconditionally the bombardments of the DRVN, and Nixon to proclaiming the partial withdrawal of US troops. Through "Vietnamization," he is seeking at present to resolve this impossible equation: how to win with a minimum troop strength where a plethoric expeditionary force was losing?

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NGUYEN HUU THO
 Chairman of the South Viet Nam NFL and
 the Advisory Council of the PRG of the RVN



HUYNH TAN PHAT
 President of the Provisional Revolutionary
 Government of the RVN

TRISOMY 21

Hoang Thi Thu Th., a 3 years old girl, was born on December 7, 1967 in Quang Nam province (South Viet Nam) in a region exposed for years to chemical sprayings from American aircraft. Her parents having gone to North Viet Nam, the girl was in a position to be given medical examination in November 1970. The physicians saw a considerable growth stent, a pronounced muscular hypertonicity, an exaggerated laxity of articulations and especially a great mental retardation. She could obey simple commands such as:

opening her mouth, raising her hands, but not more complicated ones like holding out an object to her mother. Her language was very limited.

The culture of leucocytes showed important chromosomal changes and chiefly a case of Trisomy 21.

Everyone knows that chromosomes constitute the genetic support of living beings. Trisomy 21 is an aberration in the separation of homologous chromosomes and chromosomal alterations are at the bottom of congenital malformations, monstruities, hereditary pathological syndromes. One also understands that chemical substances can provoke chromosomal aberrations: the tragedy of thalidomide has brought the matter before the international public.

Medical observations have just revealed this terrible fact: apart from immediate damage, the so-called defoliants, dumped in great quantity for many years on South Viet Nam rural and hilly areas, provoke important chromosomal alterations in the local population. People drink water from rivers and streams, eat vegetable products poisoned by these "defoliants."

Clinically, there have been many miscarriages, congenital anomalies and frequent monstruities. The discovery of chromosomal alterations portends gloomy prospects: the future of many generations is at stake. Cancer, leucemia, monstruities are to be most dreaded. The victims

of toxic chemicals sprayed by the Americans, numbering by the millions, are condemned to the same fate as the survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic tragedy.

The chemical war which has hit many million hectares of cropland and woodland in South Viet Nam appears in all its horror.

It tries to strangle millions of people by destroying all crops.

It makes all life impossible: there are whole areas where not a single blade of grass can grow, not a single bird's chirping is heard, and where even insects cannot be found.

It causes the destruction of the vegetable cover which brings about a terrible erosion, hence the devastating floods and a quick fertilization of the soil.

It poisons millions of people and provokes miscarriages and generates monstrous babies.

It even affects the human genetic patrimony. This is an aggression not only against the present-day life of the Vietnamese people, but also against their future.

Are the American rulers who try this chemical weapon aware of all these effects? The answer is but affirmative for it is precisely the American scientists who have conducted experiments on mice with one of these "defoliants" most frequently used in South Viet Nam.

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MR. XUAN NEE (flag over Washington Square, New York (November 1963))

US CHEMICALS SPRAYED IN NORTH VIET NAM

On December 6, 1970, the US sent a group of planes to spray noxious chemical substances on a populated area in Bo Trach district, Quang Binh province, causing many losses to the crops and cattle.

In a statement on Dec. 14, the spokesmen for the DRVN Foreign Ministry sternly denounced this fresh US crime.

Nixon's Dec. 10 Statement, a Provocation Against the Vietnamese People

Says DRVN delegation spokesmen

The spokesmen of the DRVN Government delegation to the Paris Conference on Dec. 10 said in a declaration that "the statement of Dec. 10, 1970 of Mr. Nixon constituted a provocation against the DRVN and the entire Vietnamese people and the most important encroachment upon the sovereignty of the peoples and the norms of international law."

Nixon wanted to make believe that the sole subject of the Paris Conference was to discuss the so-called "prisoners-of-war" problem, while stubbornly keeping complete silence on the question of ending American aggression, the statement pointed out. An extensive propaganda campaign on the "prisoners-of-war" problem has been staged by the US administration to mask its criminal

A Balance-Sheet...

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Bombings and chemical warfare were stepped up, the war extended to Cambodia and intensified in Laos. It was labour lost for the US.

On its part, the NLF unceasingly expanded its influence and kept the initiative of operations. In urban centres, new social forces joined in the nationwide popular effort. Beside the NLF, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was set up. The Provisional Revolutionary Government was formed. A mere figure speaks volume both of the magnitude of the American war and the momentousness of the successes achieved: in the free areas, nearly one million children go to classes most of the time held underground. With its political and military gains, the NLF, that the PRC, becomes the exponent of the independence of the whole nation; with its social and cultural accomplishments recorded under the deluge of fire and hardware, the free zone portends the South Viet Nam of tomorrow.

The balance-sheet in the last decade is as clear as daylight. The people's war has defeated the most formidable imperialist war machine of all times; the will for independence and freedom of a resolute people has held in check the best armed neo-colonialism; and man with his courage and creative initiative, has got the better of the most deadly machines; humanity has triumphed over barbarity. Ruins, mourning, suffering and sacrifices cannot make atonement for this balance-sheet of victory.

Let Nixon try the most heinous atrocities and most truculent threats. The Vietnamese people's will from North to South will remain unwavering. They will give life for life. They will win, and so will their brothers-in-arms, the Cambodian and Lao people, cannot make atonement for this balance-sheet of victory.

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First Physicists' Symposium in the DRVN

The First Physicists' Symposium of the DRVN, held in Hanoi, was attended by nearly 600 delegates of researchers and lecturers on physics throughout North Viet Nam.

Prof. Ngyu Nhu Kontum, President of the Viet Nam Physicists' Association, delivered a report on the development of this branch in Viet Nam during the past twenty years and its prospects.

The delegates heard 111 reports by scientists in such disciplines as: theoretical physics, physics of solids, nuclear physics, spectroscopy, radio-physics, geophysics, ultrasonics, and the teaching of physics. These reports included also papers by Vietnamese physicists living abroad.

Prime Minister Pham Van Dong honoured the meeting with an address.

The symposium marked a new turning point of Vietnamese physical science.

Just like other scientific branches, physics in Viet Nam came to light only after the August 1945 Revolution.

The DRVN in Brief

• Responding to the appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government, on December 11, 1970 the Viet Nam Fatherland Front issued a statement calling on the entire people to unite as one man and resolutely carry out President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions in order to step up the resistance war against the US aggression till complete victory.

Political parties and mass organizations such as the Viet Nam Socialist Party, the Viet Nam Democratic Party, the CC of the Ho Chi Minh Labouring Youth Union, the Viet Nam Youth Federation, the Vietnamese Students' Union, the Vietnamese

95th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Dec. 17, 1970)

NIXON'S PLEAS DISMISSED BY MR XUAN THUY

Mr Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN government delegation, rejected the justifications in Nixon's December 10 speech in which the US president arrogated to himself the right to bring war to North Viet Nam at any time; protection of US recon planes and of GIs operating in South Viet Nam. Mr Xuan Thuy commented that such truculence of the White

House master dreaming of a military victory would not pay, as the Vietnamese people would not readily be cowed by threats. "The US is now putting a spoke in the wheel of the Paris Conference and is contemplating to sabotage it totally," said Mr Xuan Thuy. "It must be held responsible for all ensuing consequences."

During the nine years of the First Resistance War (1945-1954), Viet Nam's higher education was able to open courses of theoretical science.

Nevertheless, after the re-establishment of peace, Viet Nam's physics was still faced with great difficulties in its orientation, organization and staff. Since 1959, because of the war, all relations of the Vietnamese scientific workers with the outside world have been cut off. Meanwhile, the second scientific revolution has been making giant strides in advanced countries in the world.

The great problem ahead of Vietnamese physical scientists is to catch up with the other countries within a few decades to come.

Many questions are raised in this regard: How to advance physics? Stress should be laid on theoretical science or applied science? Considering the present state of shortage, what branches priority should be given to?

At its Third National Congress held in September 1960, the Viet Nam Workers' Party laid down for Vietnamese scientific and technical personnel in general and for physicists in particular the following fundamental tasks:

— Science and technology must be closely associated with production and serve the people's welfare and national defence.

— It should be developed by priority sectors along a steadfast line and achieve international standard in some decades to come.

— As an immediate task, attention should be paid to applied science, to combining modern technical know-how in the world with our own experience in order to directly

Women's Union, the Vietnamese Artists and Writers' Union, the Viet Nam Buddhist's Union, the National Catholic Relations Committee, also put out statements warmly responding to the above-mentioned appeal and expressing their determination to continue the anti-US effort and socialist construction despite the threats and naked aggression of the Nixon administration.

On the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (NLF), the Viet Nam Fatherland Front launched an appeal calling on the Vietnamese people and armed forces to keep up the struggle against US aggression.

The appeal said that in the new situation, the task facing the Vietnamese people was to intensify production, be combat-ready, consolidate national defence, enlist the support of the world people's

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SEPT. 2, 1945 SEPT. 2, 1970

The D.R.V.N. is 25 years old

LIFE AND MEN

ME Nguyen Thi Ngai, now 101, told me of the "troubled times" of her life. At the age of 5, she was one of the refugees from the armchairs between the French aggressors and the "Co Den (Black Flag) insurgents. Although her back was broken from age, she was far from being dilapidated. Two years ago, she still found enough strength to loosen the soil for growing vegetables. Last year, she was still able to do some needle work.

During the years of resistance to the US war of destruction, I was a political instructor of a militia platoon. I participated in shooting down US aircraft with rifle fire at the village.

We were busy round-the-clock with the fighting, production and family chores. On many occasions, I had to have my meals brought out. My husband was away. Granddad helped by looking after my children. Many times, when the air alert was sounded, I just had time to take my little children to the shelter, then with my rifle rushed towards the combat position. I scored good points in target practice...

A veteran of the First Resistance War back in production work

At the creche in Tang My hamlet, I could see an old woman and some young girls working side by side as babysitters. Mme Lau, the grandma, said it was a hard job but she took pleasure in doing it. "Of my eight children," she said, "only two are still alive." These were born after the restoration of peace. The old ladies of this village considered it an honour to have many children to contribute much manpower to the Revolution. My talk with a 68-year-old mother, Mme Thu confirmed this feeling was real. She had ten children and only seven survived: five boys and two daughters. All her five sons had been serving in the people's army, and one was killed in action.

I was most impressed by the changing condition of the womenfolk, brought about by the revolution. During the First Resistance, many of the women had been active as guerrillas. One of them, Mme Tay of Ve hamlet, was now a 35-year-old mother of four. Her husband, an armyman, was still on the active list.

I was told me her brief story: "I was 16 in 1948. I led a guerrilla section and helped with army intelligence. At one time, I carried salt to the free zone to obtain money for the purchase of weapons. It was so tough and dangerous job. I had several close shaves. I still remember once the enemy troops found the underground trench where some of my comrades and I were hiding. They set off a mine, and miraculously escaped unscathed."

Early in 1967, I was appointed head of a production brigade which is now the most outstanding one of Ve hamlet. It was very difficult at first. I had got through only primary education. The organization and division of work as well as the distribution of the income was rather complex, but I gradually managed to get used to it. There was no lack of helping hands...

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A SHORT HISTORY OF A VILLAGE

(Continued)

now retired after years of action and office. Doan Tuyet, the 10th Party secretary whom I met 5 years ago, had been transferred to another post. A resourceful and energetic cadre, he had assumed many responsibilities: guerrilla fighter, head of a Party cell, village chief, member of the District Party Committee, member of the District Administration, head of the District Education Department, head of the District Health Department, head of the District Workers' Education School. Tuyet was born in 1926. An orphan at the age of 12, he had to hire himself as a servant. He joined the Revolution at the end of 1944, and not until August 1956 could he attend continuation classes to finish his primary education. Hai Van, 22, the newest and 11th village Party secretary, took over this function 4 years ago when the war was at its fiercest.

That was the process of development of cadres of the older generation who had grown up through revolutionary activity and work. Young men and women, born under the new regime usually received training in political and other schools. They are the workers at the repair workshop, technical agents at the co-ops, young school teachers or assistant doctors and nurses at the village clinic. Nam Hong has also some of its children in various colleges or middle technical schools. The country: the number is 15 and 38 respectively.

BEFORE the August 1945 Revolution, not one school could be found in this village, except for an old scholar with a few disciples. The village was 95% illiterate. Only a few children of well-to-do families could afford to go to school in the district or province school. Two of the villagers who had got "Certificates of Franco-Vietnamese Primary Education" were the pride of the whole canton. The certificates were framed and prominently hung up.

Today, everybody knows how to read and write, except for a few old aged people. Children under school-age. The village now has 15 preschool classes accommodating 72 children, a primary school (21 classes) with 943 pupils, and a junior secondary school with 18 classes with 410 pupils. Hundreds of other young girls and boys from Nam Hong have enrolled in the district secondary school.

It is the same thing in the medical field. Before the August Revolution, there was not a single physician or a midwife at Nam Hong. Instead, the village had two female mediums, two fortune-

tellers, twenty sorcerers and seven witchdoctors to "fight diseases" and save the sick from ghosts and evil spirits. Broken glasses or dirty sickles were used to cut the umbilical cords of new-born babies (the village museum still preserved the sickle which severed the umbilical cord of the baby of Mme Kien of Doai hamlet). Tetanus and bronchitis took a heavy toll of innocent children. During a cholera epidemic, hundreds of villagers died.

The village health service was organized only after the re-establishment of peace. The contingent of newly-trained health cadres had been growing little by little. At the end of 1954, a young villager was sent to a provincial crash course and returned after 3 months to work as a nurse. In 1955, one more nurse and two midwives were trained; in 1956, a nurse and a midwife were added to the village health committee. It was until 1957 that the village health committee was officially set up alongside the establishment of a body of sanitarians in various hamlets; in 1958, there were 2 more nurses and one more midwife; in 1959 the village infirmary was built and 3 newly-trained nurses and an equal number of midwives joined the contingent of health workers. In 1960, the village had two medical workers specialized in TB and trachoma. In the same year, a village nurse followed a 3-year course for assistant doctors. In 1961, Mme Hieu received a similar training. Today, Nam Hong has four assistant doctors and fifteen nurses and midwives.

I went past the infirmary at night fall. In the electric light, the white-blossomed physician was attending to his patients. Suddenly, I thought of the altar of former days with a sorcerer clad in his black tunic performing some mumbo-jumbo in the dim light of burning candles and incense sticks.

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Digging an irrigation ditch at Nam Hong

A DECADE OF SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE (1960-1970)

Chronology (2nd Part)

FROM JUNE 1965 TO DECEMBER 1969

1965

February 24: NFL success at Nha Do - Hong Trang.

March 5: New battles at Bau Bang.

June 8: Johnson directly committed US troops to the fighting.

July 11: Thieu Ky toppled the Phan Hai Quat Cabinet in Saigon.

July 16: NFL attack on Bien Hoa airbase.

August 18: First NFL victory over US troops at Van Tuong; over 900 GIs put out of action.

October-November: From Oct. 19 to Nov. 19: 14-time battle over 2,000 GIs and puppet soldiers wiped out.

Oct. 27: Onset on Nuoc Man airfield (Da Nang).

Nov. 12: Bau Bang battle; 2,000 GI casualties.

US first dry-season counter-offensive (November 1965 to March 1966) US and puppet forces attacked in 5 directions: northwest, southwest of Saigon, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Tay Yen, towards Baria, aiming at breaking the backbone of NFL regular units. Coupled with that military campaign, Washington launched on Dec. 28 a "peace" offensive with a 14-point "peace" plan.

January: Resumption of US bombardments of the DRVN after a temporary suspension.

FIGHTING SOUTH VIET NAM'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

573 delegations were sent abroad including delegations of the South Viet Nam NFL (now the PRG) and of its affiliated organizations, visiting other countries and attending international conferences.

The Republic of South Vietnam entertaining diplomatic relations with 25 countries: the Soviet Union, the PR of China, Cuba, the DPR of Korea, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Mongolia, Algeria, the UAR, Cambodia, Jordan, Syria, Tanzania, Mauritania, the DPR of Yemen, Iraq, Mali, Congo (D), Ceylon, Yugoslavia.

A special representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam has been functioning in the DRVN.

15 major parties and fronts which are not in power and to international and national organizations have recognized the South Viet Nam NFL formerly and the PRG today, as the genuine and legal representatives of the South Viet Nam people.

Membership of international organizations' central committees:

- The World Council of Peace (WCP)
- The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
- The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY)
- The International Union of Students (IUS)
- The International Association of Journalists (IAJ)
- The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO)
- The Afro-Asian Latin American Peoples' Solidarity Organization

29: US bombings of Hanoi and Haiphong periphery.

30: 43 US armoured vehicles wiped out at Cam Le.

July 17: President Ho Chi Minh called on the entire people to resist US aggression.

August 5: Nixon visited Saigon.

September 3: An Khe airfield stormed.

11: Phoney elections to the Saigon "National Assembly."

October 1: NFL delegation set up in Cairo.

26: Johnson visited South Viet Nam.

28: De Gaulle on a visit to Phnom Penh said the Americans would never subjugate the Vietnamese.

November 1: NFL guns pounded Saigon.

US second dry-season counter-offensive. Operation Attleboro in Tay Dien Mot province; 3,000 out of 30,000 GIs involved were wiped out.

20: The 1,000th US plane downed in North Viet Nam.

May 20: NFL carried the day at Plei Trang (High Plateaux); 2,000 workers demonstrated against the US in Saigon.

June 1: Hue students burnt US consulate.

4: 4,000 American intellectuals demanded cessation of US aggression in Viet Nam.

1967

January: Anti-war demonstrations in many American universities.

February: Many NFL offensives against US bases, particularly around Saigon.

From Feb. 22 to March 15: US operation Junction City opened in Tay Ninh province involving 45,000 men; 11,000 GIs put out of action, 900 armoured vehicles destroyed.

March: Many NFL assaults on US bases at Qui Nhon, Da Nang and in the Western High Plateaux.

15: Dunker replaced Cabot Lodge as US ambassador in Saigon.

20: Johnson met Thieu Ky at Gumb.

April: NFL stormed enemy positions in Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces. End of US counter-offensive: 17,500 GIs and puppet troops put of action.

15: Important anti-war demonstrations in New York and San Francisco.

May 2: First session of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal held in Stockholm (Sweden). NFL raid on Lang Vay (Khe Sanh), Bien Hoa, Da Nang, Hue.

23: Major Buddhist demonstration in Saigon.

June 24: Big battle at Dakto (Western High Plateaux).

July: NFL attack on Duc Co (High Plateaux), Dong Ha, near the 17th parallel and US bases near Saigon.

August: Extraordinary session of NFL Central Committee.

4: Johnson decided to send 50,000 troops to Viet Nam as reinforcements.

September: NFL published its political program.

15: Science Faculty students walked out in Saigon.

17: 137 well-known American intellectuals decided not to pay the 10% additional tax in protest against the Viet Nam war.

29: In San Antonio, Johnson said he was bent on winning the war.

October: NFL hammered at Hue area and Quang Nam.

Many anti-war demonstrations in the US.

November: First week: Important NFL gain at Dakto - 31,000 GIs and puppet troops wiped out.

6: Saigon workers downed tools.

21: Second session of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal held at Roskilde (Denmark).

December: Many NFL actions near the 17th parallel and around Saigon.

January: 1968

16: Women demonstrated near the US Congress building.

19: Clifford replaced Mc Namara.

31: NFL mounted offensives and uprisings in 120 cities and towns in South Viet Nam. The Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being in Hue.

February: 11: NFL flag hoisted over Hue. In Saigon, people's forces hit many positions, occupied many quarters. The Alliance of National and Peace Forces was founded.

The battle in Saigon was to last 17 days and that in Hue 4 weeks.

7: At Khe Sanh, PLAF men captured Lang Vay post.

March: NFL operations continued.

22: Westmoreland relieved from his post as commander-in-chief.

31: Johnson was obliged to order a limited bombing and to announce he would not run for President.

April: 10: Abrams took the place of Westmoreland and applied the US new defensive strategy.

20: At the national congress of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces (born of the merging of local organizations in Saigon, Hue and other towns), Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao was elected president.

May 5: NFL stormed 53 urban centres.

13: Paris Conference opened in Paris between the US and DRVN.

June 19: Thieu decreed general mobilization.

July 9: US troops evacuated Khe Sanh.

August: New anti-war demonstrations in the US.

US bases.

September: NFL onsets in Western High Plateaux and Da Nang.

October: NFL attacks in Tay Ninh and Dakto.

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VIET NAM COURIER

South

O South!
Our suffering
Planted in our hearts
Like a bruised tree,
Hands and leaves
Clenched
On the same refusal.

Brothers of the mud,
Oblivious of hunger,
Bombs dig away
Into your fields and your flesh,
But in the evening
You read
From the book of life.

No demented mill
Can kill the grain.
The light in the forest
Can never be snuffed out
O South!
Crucified
And ever reborn.

If there is a line
To plant rice in rows,
If there is a line
To better trade routes,
And build houses,
No line
Shall divide our Fatherland.

Vinh Linh,
Crossroads of miseries,
Shall unite our hands of land-tillers,
On the sun of our flags
The same star shines,
Which Ho Chi Minh lighted,
And is still lighting.

Ben Tre, Hanoi, Cam Tho,
Saigon of the night,
Our rivers and our mountains
Share the same destiny.
The stream of history,
Where a dan bau sings,
Flows from North to South.

A same revolt,
The colour of our blood,
Demands freedom
For the peoples of the world.
O South!
Our Hope
Throbbing in our hearts.

BACH LIEN
December 20, 1970



THE buffalo-drawn cart had completed its preparations and was to set out at nightfall. A peasant woman of uncertain age and with a solid build sat in the driver's seat. She readily agreed when Lan limped toward the cart and asked for a lift to Thanh Tan. She was even more affable when she knew that the young man was an acquaintance of Miss Zieu's.

"Going to Thanh Tan to see her? Don't you know that she is the teacher of my

battle you got wounded in. You want to stop over at Thanh Tan and see a relative, don't you?"

"I come from Long An. I was injured during a battle against the Yanks on the clear because of the stars that multiplied, of the shells shot up from enemy posts, and of the helicopters with their searchlights sweeping the plain with their luminous shafts. Lan could make out the rat-tat-tat of machineguns mingled with the

WINDS

Excerpts from a short story by ANH DUC

kids? Climb on, young man. Ah, it must hurt terribly, that wound on your leg! Let me give you a leg up!"

Lan put his hands on the cart's shafts. The woman unceremoniously hit him on board.

"There... there you are... you'll get quite a bounce, but that's what war is like."

Lan sat down on the ammunition cases. The descending darkness pushed back the dim outline of the vast plain. Lan saw nothing around him except the rustle of the wind-swept elephant grass. When the cart entered this moving immensity, he had the impression of sailing on the high sea. The legendary nocturnal luminosity of the Plain of Reeds was made still brighter by the silvery corners from enemy posts. In the far distance, helicopter whirled in and out, recognizable by their red lights that twinkled like dying sparks from a torch.

Farther away, bush fires glowed intermittently, now flaring up, now subsiding into small luminous points.

Lan was lost in contemplation before the soothing scenery. The carts spaced themselves up more and more into a long convoy. The pastoral sound of their clanking provided a sonorous background for these windy nights in the vast plain. Lan listened to the beats of his own heart and was near to tears as his whole being was overwhelmed by strange emotions. The wind, the rustle of the grass and even the small evening insects! The clattering of the carts, the scared birds flying up their approach and the cracking of ships in the air! And most of all, these men and women drivers! All along the past three or four years they had been disrupting every inch of land and every ta of grass in a most murderous war. Yet they were always there, carrying night after night arms and ammunition over the frontline. And the endearing, sweet smell of their musty clothes!

"I've forgotten," said the cart-driver, "to ask where you came from and what

"That Zieu is a real treasure and he who marries her can call himself a happy man. She is as good-looking as sweet in character. Right in the midst of this deluge of hardware all our kids have been able to learn how to write and read, that's thanks to Zieu."

A flush rushed to the ears of the young man. He felt he had been uncovered. The driver must have known his identity and the purpose of his trip. Their story had also been abroad, as far as he could tell from the driver's talk. Weighing carefully his words, he asked:

"Please, auntie, tell me if Miss Zieu has really gone to live at the village school after her mother's death?"

"Haven't I told you so?"

She thrust her hand into her blouse, took out a leaf of betel which she plucked with time and put into her mouth and chewed with a slice of an apple.

"You'll see for yourself soon how she lives. It's really hard, you see. Nevertheless, she refused to leave the province although she knew that at least she could live in peace over there. She had lost her parents, yet she remained so deeply attached to the land of Thanh Tan. She said, 'Since you can live in the place of an AN pointed at her mother's death'."

"No, just tell me."

"We sent a petition signed by all the villagers to the province asking them to let her stay with us. In the end the Front authorities complied with our request and even sent a certificate of merits to the girl. Wasn't it nice?"

The woman laughed heartily while spinning her yarn.

The wind blew more and more violently. Gusts were striking against the cart more and more frequently. The soft murmur of the plain had given place to a continual rumble that sounded like a drumbeat. The woman fastened more tightly the kerchief around her head while Lan rammed his duckweed hat further down on his

howling of the wind whereas the whir of the helicopters was drowned in it and perceptible only occasionally when the wind calmed down. The woman peasant brandished her whip at the choppers in the distance.

"Come here, you rascals! I am not afraid of you because we are in a convoy. You can scare me a bit when I am alone. But come here today and we'll see who will be scared!"

Then she turned to Lan:

"You know, when we travel in groups our boys are always there to see to the security of the cart. Their 'flying fish' (it) will take care not to come near. They're leary of the hard way after some of our very successful ambushes. They like to give themselves airs but the sight of an AN pointed at them just sends them scurrying away."

They arrived in Thanh Tan at around eight o'clock in the evening.

Lan tried to recognize the place but every landmark had gone. Not a tree was left standing. Not a roof. The glow he had seen came from the underground. Now everyone in Thanh Tan was living underground. Since the village lay on a slightly raised ground, the lights could be seen from a good distance.

The cart began to roll on old foundations littered with porcelain and waste debris. Impossible to recognize the streets since there was no more street. The buffaloes and oxen roamed about without need of a cowherd, threading their way through gaping craters. Birdweeds grew on the brim of bomb craters, their stalks creeping like snakes. Other holes were covered with trellises from which gourds and other cucurbitaceous fruit hung to the great astonishment of the young man.

The buffaloes lumbered to a stop in front of the woman's home, or more exactly, the underground where her family lived. A vast underground, Lan thought, for the structure looked quite solid.

(1) A type of US helicopter.

ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION VISITS THE DRVN

At the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, a delegation of the Italian Communist Party paid a friendship visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from November 27 to December 12, 1970.

The Delegation consisted of Gian Carlo Pajetta, member of the Political Bureau and the Leading Committee of the Party and Head of the Delegation; Vincenzo Galetti, member of the Central Committee and Secretary of the Party's Bologna Federation; Franco Colaninelli, Senator, and Emilio Sorzi Amade, Editor of *Unita*, central organ of the Italian Communist Party.

It was received by Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the VNPW, and held cordial talks with a delegation of the VNPW led by Nguyen Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau. The two delegations exchanged information and views on the situation in the two countries, the strengthening of the friendly relations between the two Parties and the intensification of the popular movement in Italy in support of the patriotic anti-US resistance of the Vietnamese people, and for the establishment of normal relations between the Italian Republic and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

A communique was issued on these talks, saying among other things that in the spirit of determination and struggle which inspired the Appeal of December 19, 1970 of the Central Committee of the VNPW and the DRVN Government, Italian communists would redouble their efforts to make an internationalist contribution to the action of the socialist camp, of the anti-imperialist forces and the peoples in the world to condemn the US imperialists resolutely and stop their criminal hands. In its tour of the DRVN the Delegation of the Italian Communist Party could see everywhere the unshakable will of resistance and fight of workers, militiamen, army-men, and the entire Vietnamese people, as well as their readiness to repel and break any new attack plotted by the US aggressors, the communique pointed out.

The delegation of the VNPW noted that Italian support for Viet Nam had become more and more massive, based on a growing unity of the different strata of the masses in Italy, and that it included more and more of the forces of the Italian Catholic movement. It also held the view that the fight waged by the Communist Party, the working class and the people of Italy for peace, democracy and social progress in Italy constituted a positive contribution to the common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism in the world.

INTENSIFIED US AGGRESSION AGAINST LAOS DENOUNCED

In a Statement dated December 11, the DRVN Foreign Ministry denounced the "new and very serious steps" taken by the US imperialists in their war of aggression in Laos.

The Nixon administration, the statement pointed out, has deployed its modern air forces, especially the B-52s, in massive bombings, of an extermination character against the Lao territory. Only the past 50 days, 65,000 tons of bombs of various types were dropped, inflicting considerable civilian

casualties. At the same time, it has sent into Laos 55 battalions of the puppet Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, a dozen battalions of the Thai mercenaries and is actively preparing to throw Saigon puppet troops into combined operations in Laos. On US orders, the Vietnamese administration has launched repeated encroachments on areas controlled by the Lao Patriotic Forces in Lower Laos, the Plain of Jars—Xieng Khoang area and many other areas deep in the liberated zone of Laos.

Area Two (south and southwest of Phnom Penh) as complaining on December 6 that if his forces had enough weapons, they would make a better show without help from the Saigon puppet army. "South Vietnamese troops rape, they destroy houses, they steal, they loot pagodas and they beat Buddhist monks," he said, adding that such rampaging by Saigon troops "alienates the Cambodian population."

WORLD SCIENTISTS CONDEMN US CHEMICAL WAR

The following resolution was adopted on Dec. 12 by the International Conference of Scientists on the Chemical War in Viet Nam held at Orsay, Paris:

This International Conference of Scientists from fourteen countries, which was organized under the auspices of the World Federation of Scientific Workers and held at Orsay on December 12, 1970, has studied new information concerning the magnitude of the chemical war conducted by the armed forces of the United States against the Indochinese peoples.

The use of these chemical products has been increased incessantly since 1961 despite a worldwide protest. Among these chemicals are defoliants and herbicides, particularly the 2-4-D and the 2-4-5-T (the latter is known to contain a very noxious impurity — the dioxine) and the CS toxic gases.

The defoliants and herbicides have been used in doses much higher than in agriculture, and in such conditions their effects are much greater than are usually desired in agriculture.

There has been ample proof today that the defoliants and herbicides directly affect the human beings and the fauna. One has every reason to think that exposure to the defoliants can also generate slight troubles and genetic lesions.

Experiments made on laboratory animals have formally established the fact that the 2-4-D, the 2-4-5-T and the dioxine produce certain teratological effects and important internal modifications which are very likely to harm the transmissible patrimony.

The first clinical observations presented by Vietnamese doctors suggest a direct relation between the exposure of the population to defoliants and the grave dangers, not yet assessed, which this type of warfare might cause to the present and future generations.

The proof of the direct effects of these defoliants on food plants, forests and the whole vegetation is unquestionable. They result in a generalized famine and immense sufferings among the civilian population whose mode of living is thus profoundly upset. Their long-term effects can bring about a deep disorder, which is very likely to be irreversible, of the ecology, the soil and the climate in vast areas of Viet Nam.

As far as toxic gases are concerned, it is evident that the way they are used in Viet Nam they have had long-term toxic effects. Their mortal effect has been established, and large numbers of people have fallen victims to it.

There is no doubt that the armed forces of the United States have used Viet Nam as test-ground for chemical warfare.

The magnitude of the losses in human lives and the effects of all sorts on the nature make it possible for one to draw the conclusion that one is faced with a genocide coupled with a bioicide.

We, the participants to the Conference, reaffirm our conviction that the use of these products constitutes a flagrant violation of the regulations formulated in the 1925

Geneva Protocol and consecrated by the Resolution of December 16, 1969 of the United Nations.

We urge immediate cessation of the use of chemical agents in war.

We condemn the veritable perversion of science and technology which include the massive and illegal manufacture, development and utilization of these products against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

We hail the courageous stand of the various scientific circles in the United States against the use of chemical weapons in Indochina. We appeal to our colleagues in the United States and other countries to realize the tragedy and thus to join us in a worldwide protest against the use of defoliants and the other noxious chemical substances.

In face of the terrible upsetting of the ecology in Viet Nam, the magnitude of which is beyond man's imagination, we appeal to all scientific organizations in the world, particularly those affiliated to the World Federation of Scientific Workers, to join efforts to organize in diverse and appropriate forms an efficacious assistance to the Vietnamese people, and to study more profoundly the effects of the toxic chemicals used in this war, as well as the means to combat them.

Because all the crimes perpetrated by the armed forces of the United States have their origin in the war of aggression they are conducting at present, we energetically demand the United States to put an end to this war and withdraw completely and unconditionally their troops from Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

Only at this price can righteousness and justice be safeguarded.

Over twenty higher education establishments have opened and trained thousands of physics teachers for secondary schools and intermediate vocational schools, thousands of engineers and cadres for fundamental theory. A number has been sent abroad for post graduate studies and some of them have taken master's and doctors degrees in sciences.

The higher education establishments are also physical research centres, especially

SAIGON'S ECONOMIC TRICKS

(Continued from page 10)

tax-control campaign will be launched for four weeks to severely punish fraud, false statements, etc." (AFP, Oct. 16).

In 1969, when "Vietnamization" began, tax-raising measures hit the customs, equalization taxes and "austerity" taxes on 1,500 commodities. Nguyen Van Thieu told a *UPI* correspondent (July 19, 1970) what he thought: "All citizen has his responsibilities towards the war against communism. If we constantly rely on our allies, we shall lose our national pride. Thus the US government is resolute to shift the whole responsibility for the war to the Vietnamese side in order to lighten the burden which weighs on the shoulders of the American people, but this requires time."

In the name of this "national pride," all special exaction was exerted on the tax-payers: from 11.5 billion in 1965 the tax-income rose to 20 billion in 1969 and 97 billion in 1970.

As war expenditure is skyrocketing, an inflation described by the Western press as "galloping" has come to stay. No doubt that it will take fantastic proportions in months to come.

However the 20 per cent wage boost is immediately followed by a more considerable rise in the cost of living, which was already 45 per cent higher in July 1970 compared with August 1969. Prices continue to soar and the income of wage-earners are reduced proportionately to such an extent that the whole life of the puppet administration is anxious for what they have accumulated during the war. In the end the wage-lift reduces its "recipients" to utter misery owing to the

(Continued from page 2)

serve production, while not neglecting theoretical science.

— Scientific and technical personnel should be trained and scientific research institutions be fruitfully established.

— Science and technology should be popularized among the masses, its developments, innovations and inventions be given a strong impetus and the considerable strength of the masses be called on to develop science and technology.

Over twenty higher education establishments have opened and trained thousands of physics teachers for secondary schools and intermediate vocational schools, thousands of engineers and cadres for fundamental theory. A number has been sent abroad for post graduate studies and some of them have taken master's and doctors degrees in sciences.

The higher education establishments are also physical research centres, especially

price-hike and subsequent inflation.

It is fair to say that Saigon has sought to remedy this inconvenience by granting to militarymen's and functionaries' families loans totalling three billion piastres taken from "lottery for construction." But this aim proves quite insufficient and risky owing to the concomitant setting up of funds for "people's investments," "life insurance," "national aid," etc. Calls for money were made for the building of villages for "invalids," "orphans," "assistance to war victims," etc. Saigon furthermore has announced the issue of loans, stock exchanges, etc.

To attract capitals, a 10-20 per cent interest rate is granted to bank deposits, as prices go up 60 per cent per year on the average.

Such are the economic measures taken by Saigon. They are incapable of improving the catastrophic situation in the areas controlled by the puppet administration, for they do not affect the causes and appear to be a device of a doubtful efficiency.

The prolongation of the war depends at last on US aid, without which the regime cannot survive a single day. The American tax-payer is however fed up with that mongrel government which gives Washington a pretext to carry on the war. The 35 billion dollars spent a year for this simple myth only bring setbacks on the US.

By "Vietnamization" the war, the White House is heading for a disaster. A war cannot be won by proxy. And the waste of the quillions can be gauged only by dollars from US aid.

the Hanoi University, the Polytechnic College and the Theoretical Physics Teachers' College. All technical schools are practically applied physics research centres. In addition, many research institutes and centres devoted to this branch have been set up under the State Scientific and Technical Committee, ministries and enterprises, especially the Institute of Physics.

A scientific lesson for scientific vulgarization and exchange of up-to-date achievements in physics has been prepared. The State Scientific and Technical Committee has published a Russian-English-Vietnamese lexicon of about 20,000 entries of physical scientific terminology, hundreds of courses, text-books and reference works for use in higher education establishments, scientific magazines, such as the *Mathematics-Physics* magazine and other periodicals and bulletins circulated in the scientific circles.

The publishing of books and periodicals, the establishment of libraries, holding of

The DRVN in Brief

(Continued from page 2)

denounce the US scheme to prolong the war by means of "Vietnamization" and attacks on the North to seek a way out of their South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos quagmires.

• Recently, the Thai Binh branch of the Faculty of Medicine held a commencement for its first batch.

292 doctors in 18 specialties were graduated of whom 35% were women, 33% students of Southern origin and 7% minority nationalities.

Before their admission to the school, they were experienced in medical and women working in various provinces.

• On the occasion of Beethoven's 200th birth anniversary, a committee sponsored by the Viet Nam Peace Committee, the Culture Ministry, the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Vietnamese Composers Association was held on December 14, in Hanoi.

Beethoven's works performed by Vietnamese artists included sonatas, a romance, a trio, a string quartet, an overture and a symphony.

• On December 9, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party sent a congratulatory message to the 20th Congress of the Uruguayan Communist Party.

(Continued from page 3)

wells have been sunk and bathrooms and double septic tanks built next to new houses, things unknown before. In many families, Aunts could notice some wood furniture, radio sets, bicycles, and wrist watches. The quillions can be gauged only by dollars from US aid.

First Physicists' Symposium...

meetings and symposiums have given rise to a movement of study and research among physicists who also take part in the mass popularization of theoretical physics as well as up-to-date scientific achievements such as man-made satellites, cosmic ships, etc.

This dissemination is carried out by means of newspapers, magazines, scientific reviews, scientific books as well as talks at scientific vulgarization centres. Consequently the masses' scientific and professional standards have been improved and as a result, physics has been given a strong fillip. The physicists have carried out researches for the good of production, the people's welfare and the fighting.

Spectroscopy was the first to develop (1960). It is now modernly equipped and adequately staffed. Its personnel has been able to analyse the quality and quantity of metals contained in ores and in manufactured products.

Research on physics of solids dates back to 1960. Ferrites successfully experimented in laboratories have been mass-produced since 1964.

The formation of the group of researchers on semi-conductors in 1962 was followed by theoretical and practical researches and the production of selenium rectifiers and diodes of minor power, etc. The team of researchers on dielectricity has been studying insulating resins and a kind of resin with a high breakdown potential developed by them has been manufactured.

Nuclear physicists have measured fall-out in the air, sediments, water and foodstuffs to collect data for investigation on radio-active contamination in Viet Nam.

They have also conducted analyses by the radio-active method and observed the action of radiations to prevent the germination and putrefaction of sweet potatoes.

With regard to elementary particles, the cadres of the State Scientific and Technical Committee and of the Hanoi University have undertaken studies on the problem of neutron resonance diffraction, and have gathered data and theoretical analyses.

Many members of the theoretical physics team have published papers in foreign scientific reviews, which represent some modest contribution to theoretical science as well as to production and national defence.

The geophysics group set up in 1954 has been busy with the "measurement" of fall-out in the air, rain water, sediments, soil, the observation of artificial satellites, etc.

The results of these researches are still limited. But, for our physicists, the trail has been blazed. And in this respect, this first symposium is that of confidence. It augurs well for the future.

Saigon Troops' Rampaging in Cambodia Unpalatable Even to Phnom Penh

THE Lon Nol Foreign Ministry tent on December 5 a note to the Saigon puppet embassy in Phnom Penh demanding that Saigon puppet troops stop burning Cambodian homes, reported AP. Indeed, Saigon troops' brutalities have shocked even Phnom Penh army-men.

The same source quoted Brigadier General Sosthene Fernandez, Commander of Military

Area Two (south and southwest of Phnom Penh) as complaining on December 6 that if his forces had enough weapons, they would make a better show without help from the Saigon puppet army. "South Vietnamese troops rape, they destroy houses, they steal, they loot pagodas and they beat Buddhist monks," he said, adding that such rampaging by Saigon troops "alienates the Cambodian population."



A child hit by a bullet by congenital malformations

NFL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PRG RESPOND TO VNWPC AND DRVN GOVERNMENT APPEAL

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on Dec. 13 made public a statement responding to the Appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

"Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one," The Statement stressed. "Independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam are inseparable and sacred national rights of the Vietnamese people. The US must stop for ever all its war acts against the DRVN, withdraw totally and unconditionally the US troops and the troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam, cut off its Thieu-Ky-Khiem warlike henchmen, let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs."

MILITARY OPERATIONS

TRUNG BO (ex-Annam)

Phu Yen province:

On Dec. 2, PLAF men stormed the Phuc Tan military sector, Tuy An district, obliterating its CP, the command of "Bao An" Unit No 2/11, destroying the signal centre, putting out of action 6 puppet platoons of artillery, mortars, transmission, "Bao An" and scouts; the enemy took over 300 casualties including the district chief and 15 American "advisors."

Rhokh Hoa province:

On December 1, regional PLAF assaulted the puppet troops at Xuan Vinh, Ninh Hoa district: 1 "bao an" company, 1 "dan ve" platoon, 4 "pacification" teams badly damaged.

Binh Thuan province:

Night of Nov. 28 and 29, PLAF men hammered at an enemy position at Ta Don, Gop post, and an enemy rescue party: 350 enemy casualties (including 2 companies).

NAM BO (ex-Cochinchina)

Tay Ninh province:

On Dec. 4, PLAF attacked Ban Don military sector, 22 km southeast of the provincial capital: 200 enemy troops, 155 mm gun and 12 barracks put out of commission all the policemen in the sector liquidated.

Ca Mau province:

On the night of Dec. 2 and on Dec. 4, regional PLAF raided Kinh Cong Nghiep post, Tran Van Thon district, and a group of Battalion 2 in Song Doc district: a company of Battalion 3, Regiment 33, wiped out, and 2 battalions of Regiment 32 decimated (all belong to Division 21).

Rach Gia province:

Regional PLAF overran 2 posts 2 km from An Bien military sector: 1 "dan ve" company written off, 28 other troops captured, 49 fire-arms seized.

Ba Ria province:

Regional PLAF assaulted Xuyen Moc military sector, wiping out the "bao an" company defending the sector, including the company command.



THE creation of a "dual exchange rate" was decided in Saigon on October 3, 1970. It consisted in adding to the dollar official rate (118 piastres) a "dual limited rate" of 275 piastres for transactions other than those made between States.

This massive devaluation was necessary due to the deterioration of the piastre.

In fact the MPC (Military Payment Certificate) dollar fetches 350 or 400 piastres

fantastic statements of the puppet authorities who gave the following price: "The government is aware that the new devaluation is an evil, but it is a must, just as a surgical operation is necessary for a patient. It will hurt but will cure him" (1).

Devaluation will bring in the government handsome sums of money. In all, 84 billion piastres will be collected by the Treasury, but they are incapable of filling the big budgetary gap of about 195 billion (in 1971).

Tran Thien Khiem's trip to Taiwan and Japan proved unable to rapidly entice foreign investments in. As a matter of fact, no appreciable investments have been made since the carrying out of "Vietnamization."

Needless to say that the general discontent is at a head, Saigon must take drastic measures to "help the economically weak strata" by a wage-lift and an encouragement to the accumulation of capitals, hoping to parry the inconveniences of a

Aspects of "Vietnamization"

in the black market and the civilian dollar 700 piastres or more. This transaction is completely out of control of the Saigon authorities. In its Dec. 5, 1960 issue, the daily *Quoc Nha Nam* gave the following reason: "Suppose all Americans are honest — but they are never so to the point of not noticing the way their fellow-countrymen and the Vietnamese around them grow rich, let's say, quite lawfully. In fact an American having 10,000 greenbacks is not willing to exchange them at the bank at the rate of 118 piastres to a dollar when bar-keepers, pedicab-drivers, cooks, servants or other menials are ready to offer him 300 piastres. The most honest American is tempted to reckon as follows: against 10,000 greenbacks, he can obtain 3 million piastres for which he will get 20,000 red dollars (MPC) at the rate of 150 piastres a dollar. The deal earns him 4.5 million piastres, enough for him to live in clover with villa and five or six paramours for only 600,000 piastres per month. The balance or 900,000 piastres can be easily changed for red dollars with which he can buy goods at PXs and resell them in the black market thus achieving his goal of becoming a millionaire notwithstanding his honesty."

The Saigon Financial Minister complained that "foreign militarmen royally paid in foreign currency are the root of the fantastic extension of the black market, especially around big military bases. This is harmful to the government of the Republic of Viet Nam because it deprives it of its monetary sovereignty, of a major source of foreign currencies and encourages the illegal export of private capitals."

It was to make good this deplorable state of things that a decision was taken on this end by Saigon on Oct. 3. The previous devaluation move (June 18, 1966), we still remember, had led to the present "galloping" inflation, so only little credence should be given to the

let alone the fact that the calculation may turn out to be wrong in practice.

"In 21 months inflation has resulted in a loss of 93 per cent of the value of the piastre" (*Times*, Oct. 12). After the announcement of devaluation, the leading stores closed their shops to mark up their goods. "Within 24 hours, the prices of consumer goods jumped by 15-20 per cent" (*AFP*, Oct. 6): "20 per cent for meat, 30 per cent for eggs and 70 per cent for vegetables" (*AFP*, Oct. 10). The boom will reach 40 or 50 per cent at year end" (*Reuters*, Oct. 26).

In the meantime the new official exchange rate of 275 piastres to a dollar is incapable of attracting the 100 or 200 million dollars in hole-and-corner transactions, as the black market rate is about 600 piastres to a dollar.

cost of living which is spiralling.

Let's take a closer look at the way things have happened.

The puppet State apparatus employs some 300,000 civil servants but needs a 1,212,000 million-strong army including 112,000 troops for its own protection.

The general wage boost of 20 per cent swallows every month 3 billion piastres, or 30 billion per year. Where can this money be found?

First by an ever-increasing tax levy. The Saigon Financial Minister has announced that "since the end of October, a

(Continued page 3)

(1) Statement by Vu Quoc Thuan, Minister of Rehabilitation.

Trisomy 21...

(Continued from page 1)

2,4,5-T (2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid), their experiments have shown that the product causes a very high foetal mortality rate and malformations on the survivors. Even in a very small dose and a very short administration time, the incidence of abnormal foetuses was three times greater than the experimental mice than with the non-experimental ones. (Report of the Genetics Research Laboratories quoted by Jackie Varret in effect of 2,4,5-T in Man and the Environment, US Senate, 91st Congress, Washington, 1969, p. 31)

The Washington authorities are aware of the results of the scientists' researches. They want to test the chemical weapon on the South Vietnamese

people, as they have been doing with all other weapons, planes, helicopters, bombs, shells, electronic engines. Of all these arms, the chemical weapons are the cheapest in human lives and money and yields more lasting effects.

From the time Washington was obliged to withdraw part of its troops from South Viet Nam, the chemical war has been stepped up to make up for the ineffective conventional ground war. As he does not want to change in his Viet Nam policy, Nixon flinches from no crimes.

More than ever, a stubborn struggle against US aggression is an imperative necessity for the Vietnamese people as well as the whole of mankind.